Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 169267
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169267

STADIS//////////////////////////
FOR CHARGE FROM ARN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SY

SUBJECT: SYRIAN APPLICATION OF MARTIAL LAW

REF: DAMASCUS 3774

1. REFTEL REPORTS INTER ALIA, THAT ASSAD REGIME "SEVERLY RESTRICTED THE APPLICATION OF MARTIAL LAW TO DIMINISH THE PRACTICE OF ARBITRARY ARRESTS AND DETENTION." WE RECALL THAT ASSAD IN HIS MARCH INAUGURATION SPEECH REFERRED TO ABUSES OF THE MARTIAL LAW PROVISIONS AND THE NEED FOR IMPROVEMENT, BUT ARE NOT AWARE OF SPECIFIC MEASURES SARG MAY HAVE IMPLEMENTED TO GIVE EFFECT TO IMPLIED REFORM.

2. WE WOULD APPRECIATE SOONEST ANY DETAILS OF REFORM OVER PERIOD SINCE MARCH TO INCLUDE NEW REGULATIONS, RELEASE OF DETAINEES, MEASURES FOR DISCIPLINING THOSE WHO ABUSE
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MARTIAL LAW, ETC. ON WHICH STATEMENT REFTEL IS BASED. MISSION SHOULD MONITOR AND REPORT PERIODICALLY DEVELOPMENTS IN ARREST, DETENTION AND INTERROGATION PRACTICES, SLUGGING REPORTS FOR ARN. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARTIAL LAW, GOVERNMENT REFORM
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Draft Date: 05 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, SY
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